

CITY OF VANCOUVERSPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 24, 1977

A Special Meeting of Vancouver City Council was held on Monday, January 24, 1977, in the No. 3 Committee Room, Third Floor, City Hall, at 2:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor J.J. Volrich
Aldermen Brown, Ford, Gerard, Gibson,
Harcourt, Kennedy, Marzari,
Puil, and Rankin

ABSENT: Alderman Bellamy

CLERK TO
THE COUNCIL: J. Thomas

G.V.R.D. Regional Transportation Proposal

Council had for consideration a proposal for regional transportation organization and financing submitted by the Greater Vancouver Regional District Transportation Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors of the G.V.R.D. requesting Council's support for the following concepts to be recommended to the Provincial Government for approval:

1. That a co-ordinating Provincial/Regional Transportation Commission be established by the Provincial Government for Greater Vancouver to ensure that capital, maintenance, and operating policy on transportation matters in the widest sense, namely highways, public transit, harbour ferries, and commuter rail, be serviced by a single, locally based agency with substantial local political and technical input.
2. That the proposed Provincial/Regional Transportation Commission be given responsibility for adopting annual five-year capital and operating budgets, after extensive local and Provincial advice, for implementation by existing operating agencies such as Department of Highways, and B.C. Hydro Transit Division.

In addition, the G.V.R.D. sought Council's support for a specific proposal:

- implementation of a study estimated to cost approximately \$200,000 shared 50/50 between the Province and Regional District, to investigate the feasibility of constructing a Light Rapid Transit link between downtown Vancouver, Burnaby Metro Centre, New Westminster, North Surrey, and the North-east sector of the region.

The presentation was made by Mr. W. Lane, Director, Regional Development, Mr. Gerard Farry, Director of Planning, and Mr. D. Spaeth, Transportation Consultant, G.V.R.D. Planning Department. Members of the G.V.R.D. Transportation Committee, Alderman Rankin, and Mayor C.P. Jones, also addressed Council.

The two Concepts and the Study Proposal, contained in separate reports (on file in the City Clerk's Office) were reviewed by Mr. Lane, who stated the suggested Transportation Commission would assure balanced public, political and technical input in vital transportation matters affecting the whole region. The financial formula set forth one way of satisfying the varied interests of the Province as well as those of the inner core and outlying member communities of Greater Vancouver.

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GVRD Regional Transportation
 Proposal (cont'd)

Mr. Lane pointed out the object of the work done by the Board's Committee and staff was not to improve radically, access levels, but to prevent the imminent rapid deterioration of the level of accessibility existing for people going to and from their jobs in the Greater Vancouver area. It was not generally realised that while population was increasing by approximately 2% per year, traffic was building at 9% and the resultant traffic slow-down would bring about dramatic increases in costs of gasoline consumption (per mile, per car for more than 500,000 vehicles); insurance costs; transit costs (more buses and more drivers to carry the same number of passengers); longer commuter times; and more pollution.

It was suggested the proposed Provincial/Regional Transportation Commission, pooling the monies presently spent by the Department of Highways, and B.C. Hydro Transit Division, together with additional funds raised by a new "user" tax on automobiles, should adopt annually an official five-year regional transportation program for regional roads and public transit, consisting of the following elements:

- a) An identification of transportation needs in the Region,
- b) Estimates of the funds to finance the Program annually from all sources for the next five years,
- c) Plans, schedules, financing and responsibility for construction, operation and maintenance of transportation facilities included in the Program, and
- d) A statement of expenditures on transportation facilities funded by the Program and completed last year or in progress.

Membership of the Commission should comprise the Ministers of Municipal Affairs, Highways, and Transport (one of whom would be Chairman); the Chairman of B.C. Hydro and three Directors of the G.V.R.D. (one of whom should be from the City of Vancouver). A Technical Transportation Committee should be established to be responsible for the preparation of the five-year transportation program to be submitted annually to the Commission, with membership comprising: representatives from each Municipality and City, representative of the Department of Highways, representative of the Department of Municipal Affairs, representatives of the public transit operators in the Region and the Chairman of the Technical Planning Committee of the Regional District.

The suggested financing formula provided for the Province paying 60% of arterial street costs and 100% of the transit operating deficit. The Region would pay 40% of arterial street costs and 100% of transit capital costs. The municipalities would pay 100% of the costs of local transportation.

Reference was made to the announcement in the Throne Speech that the Provincial Government would introduce legislation during the current Session establishing a transit authority for the Province and the G.V.R.D. representatives emphasised that it was felt it was critical that the cities and municipalities of the region assume a position that could be taken into consideration by the Provincial Government before binding legislation was introduced.

During discussion Mayor Volrich advised the G.V.R.D. representatives Council had convened for the primary purpose of hearing and receiving their presentation and would meet again in Committee to determine the City's position in regard to the proposals. Preliminary assessment of the financing formula indicated a heavy and inequitable burden would be imposed on the taxpayers of Vancouver and it could be expected that the City's consideration of the proposal would result in some counter proposals with regard to financing.

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GVRD Regional Transportation
 Proposal (cont'd)

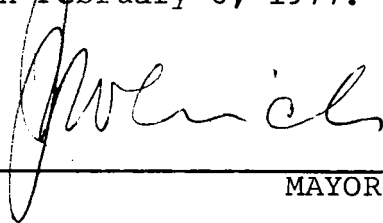
Referring to concern expressed by members of Council in regard to adequate citizen participation on the question of Light Rapid Transit, the Mayor urged input from citizens be scheduled for the initial planning stages rather than later on in the process as, in his opinion, a large-scale selling job would have to be undertaken to gain public support.

The Council agreed further consideration be given to the G.V.R.D. proposal at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Transportation to be arranged by the Mayor and the Committee Chairman and to which all members of Council would be invited.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:05 p.m.

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The foregoing are Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of January 24, 1977, adopted on February 8, 1977.


 MAYOR


 CITY CLERK